

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087469

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV RAIL TRIP THROUGH SIBERIA

1. SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR BESSMERTNYKH TOLD
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS THAT IT IS HIS PERSONAL
VIEW THAT AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE REASON FOR BREZHNEV'S
WHISTLE STOP TOUR THROUGH SIBERIA WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE
USTINOV IS FOREIGN POLICY. BESSMERTNYKH SAID THAT HE HAD
NO GUIDANCE ON THE TRIP BUT HE CONCLUDED FROM THE FACT THAT
ZAMYATIN, CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SECTION,
CPSU, WAS BEHIND THE TRIP, THAT IT MUST HAVE A SIG-
NIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY PURPOSE. HE ALSO AGREED WITH THOSE
WHO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A STRONG ANTI-CHINESE COMPONENT
IN THE TRIP, BUT HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD ALSO
CONCLUDE THAT IT IS A SYMBOLIC AND LARGER RESPONSE TO THE
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PRESIDENT'S WAKE FOREST SPEECH AND SUBSEQUENT TRIP ON THE
AIRCRAFT CARRIER. HAVING SAID THAT, BESSMERTNYKH RECOGNIZED
THAT MOST OF THE ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED ARE DOMESTIC AND
REFLECT AN INTERESTING ARRAY OF SOVIET DOMESTIC PRO-
BLEMS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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